Import of Potassium Penicillin V

1481. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 2854 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 5th December, 1988 and state:

(a) what is the policy regarding allowing import of Potassium Penicillin V to 6 APA producers;

(b) whether it is a fact that Penicillin V is not indigenously produced in the country;

(c) whether it is a fact that lifting of indigenous Penicillin V is one of the conditions of Import Licence;

(d) whether the condition of indigenous lifting of Penicillin V as and when available is statutory;

(e) whether his Ministry has stipulated any penalty clause in case of non-lifting; and

(f) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) Under the present policy all users of Penicillin V have been asked to use Penicillin G, for the production of 6 APA.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) to (f) In the preceeding year lifting of indigenous Penicillin V, as and when it is available, was one of the conditions in the Import Licence.

Theft of telephone equipments

1482. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "CBI inquiry into the theft of telephones equipments" which appeared in the 'Statesman', Calcutta Edition of 22nd March, 1989; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the enquiry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The inquiry is being handed over to CBI.

Efficacy of Tromaril drug

1483. SHRI SHAMIM HASHMI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether 'Tromaril' drug developed by Regional Research Laboratories has been found ineffective against Arthritis as reported in the 'Indian Express' of 2nd March, 1989;

(b) whether Unichem Lab. Bombay stopped production of this drug even after paying huge amounts to CSIR for technical know how; and

(c) how this drug was cleared without proper and sufficient field trials which resulted in lot of wastage of resources and energy?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) and (c) Tromaril was clinically tried in the country in conditions of traumatic and inflamatory conditions, dental surgery, episiotomy and rheumatoid arthritis. On the recommendation an expert panel which considered the clinical data of efficacy and safely generated, Drug Controller (India) approved the marketing of the drug in April '78.

(b) Information will be collected and placed on the Table of the House.